# *Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons*

# Report to Saskatchewan's Minister Responsible for Seniors 2003-04

April 2005

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# ANNUAL REPORT: 2003-04

## SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF OLDER PERSONS

## REPORT TO THE MINISTER

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

April 2005

The Honourable John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for Seniors
Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Nilson:

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons is pleased to present the 2003-04 Annual Report.

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons was established in 2000, with a mandate to make recommendations and advise the Minister Responsible for Seniors on important seniors issues. This is aided by the Committee's diverse group of committed members, each bringing strength to our purpose.

Mr. Minister, it has been an excellent experience working with everyone on the Committee.

Yours truly,

Ed Leson

Mr. Edward Leson
Chairperson
Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons

# INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Annual Report of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons (PACOP) since its beginning in 2000. The following report describes the activities and composition of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons for 2003-04.

# CREATING LINKAGES

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons continues to remain committed to examining issues related to older persons in the Province of Saskatchewan. During the 2003-04 year, the Committee had the opportunity to further create linkages and share information as listed below.

## Saskatchewan Century Club

Mr. Ken Mitchell, University of Regina, made a presentation on the Saskatchewan Century Club. The Century Club is an association of seniors who have reached the age of 90 years and are determined to continue living full, active lives to the age of 100 and beyond.

Additionally, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons attended a Seniors' Week held September 2003. The Seniors' Week tea was hosted by the Lieutenant Governor in honour of centenarians in the Saskatchewan Century Club.

## Health Quality Council

Dr. Stewart McMillan made an informative presentation on Saskatchewan's Health Quality Council. Dr. McMillan shared with the Committee some of the recent work and planned future work of the Council.

## Influenza & Pneumococcal Immunizations

Ms Rosalie Tuchscherer of Saskatchewan Health made an informative presentation on the importance of influenza and pneumococcal immunizations for seniors.

## Housing

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons has identified housing as an issue of concern for older persons in their *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons*. To that end, the Prince Albert Housing Authority provided the Committee with an informative presentation of the housing and support services they offer for seniors in Prince Albert.

## Informational Tours

In conjunction with regular meetings of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, members toured the following facilities and centres:

- Mont. St. Joseph Home Inc. (Prince Albert);
- Lady Minto Health Centre (Edam);
- Abbeyfield Home (Prince Albert); and
- Meota Seniors' Centre.

# ACTIVITIES IN 2003-04

Throughout 2003-04, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons undertook work on a number of important issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan.

## Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons completed and presented the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons* to the Minister Responsible for Seniors. The Framework and Action Plan provides a focus for future policy and program development in order to work towards the vision of protecting and promoting the health, dignity, and well-being of all older persons in Saskatchewan.

The Framework and Action Plan identifies six different goals (each identifying a number of different recommendations):

- Ensure provision of and access to affordable and supportive housing and services for older persons.
- Provide safe and affordable transportation for older persons.
- Ensure the access and availability to the continuum of quality and appropriate health care services for all older persons.
- Promote active living and lifelong learning.
- Enhance the recognition of contributions of older persons.
- Ensure the safety and security of all older persons.

## Alzheimer Strategy for Saskatchewan

In conjunction with the Alzheimer Society Of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons continued to develop *A Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias in Saskatchewan*.

## Seniors' Week

Following through with our commitment to recognizing contributions of older persons, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons undertook a mailout regarding Seniors' Week 2003. The mailout included a letter from the Committee, as well as a list of different activities that could be considered for Seniors' Week.

# PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2004-05 (WORKPLAN)

Throughout 2003-04, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons deliberated on a number of important issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan. Many of these activities were identified as priorities in last year's annual report, while others emerged as the Committee performed its role.

## Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons

With the completion of the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons*, the focus is now on addressing recommendations that were directed to the Committee for follow-up.

## Housing

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons plans to undertake the development of a housing document that will outline the different public and private housing options available to Saskatchewan seniors.

## Alzheimer Strategy for Saskatchewan

In conjunction with the Alzheimer Society Of Saskatchewan, the Committee will continue to develop *A Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias in Saskatchewan* with a timeline for completion of Spring 2005.

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons will seek to identify any new critical challenges facing Saskatchewan seniors.

# APPENDIX A
# COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003-04

**Wes Ashwin**

Mr. Ashwin was the Chairperson of the Provincial Advisory Committee, International Year of Older Persons (1999), and was also the Saskatchewan representative on the Canada Coordinating Committee – International Year of Older Persons (1999). He is an ordained United Church Minister and a retired employee of the Government of Saskatchewan.

**Marg Beament**

Mrs. Beament has been involved with the development of Northern Saskatchewan since 1973. She has worked with such organizations as Northern Native Women, Northern Municipal Council, NorSask Native Outreach, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band Health Services as a Community Health Representative and Home Care Coordinator.

**Frank Bellamy**

A retired teacher and administrator (Superintendent of Education and Director of Curriculum), Dr. Bellamy is a past president of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and guardian for the Active Living Coalition of Older Adults (ALCOA) and the committee on diabetes and activity for seniors. He has volunteered with such groups as the Alzheimer Association of Saskatchewan, Regina Alzheimer Society, Selo Seniors Community Centre, City of Regina, the Regina Senior Citizens Centre Inc. and the Seniors' Education Centre, University of Regina.

**Margaret Cline**

Mrs. Cline came to Canada as a war bride and has been active in her community ever since. Currently a member of the Young-Zelma Legion and the Saskatchewan War Brides' Association, she has also served as a member of the Zelma United Church Women and nationally and provincially with the Saskatchewan Women's Institute, including a two-year term as president. She was also a member of the Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network (SWAN).

**Helen "Bubs" Coleman**

Mrs. Coleman was appointed as a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging in May 1999. She currently volunteers for the Saskatoon Council on Aging and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. She retired in 1994 as the Communications Coordinator for the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon.

**Patricia Hutchison**

Dr. Hutchison is a member of the Seniors' Education Centre/Seniors' University Group where she attends classes and has served on the board and executive. Presently she serves on the Fifty Plus Advisory Committee of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Population and Public Health Services. During her professional career, she practised for a time as a pediatrician. She joined the Regina Health Department in 1962 and from 1983 until retirement in 1992, she was Medical Health Officer for Regina. She was a coroner for the Province of Saskatchewan in the mid-1990s.

**Don King (Chair)**

Dr. King is the retired Director of the Seniors' Education Centre, University Extension, University of Regina. A former Winnipeg resident, Dr. King has been an educator for 35 years in Regina at Luther College and the University of Regina. He has presented papers at national and international conferences on older adult issues and has been invited to participate in several face-to-face and computer-mediated national forums.

**Edward Leson**

A retired teacher and past member of the Prince Albert Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee, Mr. Leson has also served as a Councillor with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and as President of the Prince Albert Teachers' Association.

**Frank J. Mirasty**

Mr. Mirasty is a former Chief of the Flying Dust First Nation, a position he held for eight years. Besides his involvement with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council in drafting the Education Act and as the Director of Self-Government, Mr. Mirasty is also known as a translator—he reads and writes in both Cree and English. He is also currently working with the Justice Committee in Alternative Justice and the Police Mangement Board.

**Doreen Mowers**

Mrs. Mowers was instrumental in the development of the Citizens All Association, where she worked as a councillor for 19 years. Aside from her work as a free-lance journalist, Ms Mowers has a Bachelor of Social Work and is trained as a psychiatric nurse. She also recently completed a four-year lay ministry course sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada.

**Jean Nahachewsky**

Mrs. Nahachewsky is the past president of the Saskatoon Council on Aging. She assisted with the organization of "Spotlight on Seniors" an education and trade show and continues to volunteer with the Council. For many years she was also the Coordinator of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Resource Centre in Saskatoon.

**Trevor Quinn**

A retired pharmacist and former Director of the Formulary and Education Division for the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan, Mr. Quinn has been active in a variety of heritage-related organizations such as the Regina Plains Museum and the Saskatchewan Pharmacy Museum Society. An active Kiwanian, his community activities include membership on the Finance Committee of the Regina Early Learning Centre and the editorial board of the Saskatchewan Senior Mechanism's publication, "Gray Matters."

**Maria Reardon**

Mrs. Reardon is the retired Vice-President of the Canadian College of Health Service Executives. She is currently an education consultant with the Canadian Healthcare Association and supervises nine correspondence students in the Long Term Care Senior Management Course.

Mrs. Reardon is the past president of the Board of the Seniors' University Group, University of Regina, and currently serves on the Research and Publicity Committees. She also serves on the board of the MacKenzie Infant Care Centre and is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Regina Symphony Women's Association. She is an Associate Member of the Royal United Services Institute. She is presently involved in the promotion of the Canadian Health Network through the auspices of CATALIST, a third age learning organization.

# APPENDIX B
# SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

| Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Honoranum | $ 3,875 | $ 3,875 | $ 4,189 | $ 4,800 |
| Other Costs (e.g., travel/ sustenance/meetings) | 5,968 | 7,937 | 9,913 | 10,698 |
| **Total** | **$ 9,843** | **$11,812** | **$14,102** | **$15,498** |